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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

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SEP 02 2014

FCC Mail Room

August 22, 2014

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Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Secretary Dortch:

As State Representative of the 200th Legislative District and Chair of the Philadelphia Delegation to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, I am pleased to offer my strong support for Comcast's proposed merger with Time Warner Cable. My district is comprised of approximately 60,000 residents in the Mount Airy and Chestnut Hill neighborhoods of Philadelphia.

As a public servant and a lifelong Philadelphia resident, I have had extensive experience with Comcast and can personally attest to its longstanding commitment to our City. Comcast has been a key corporate citizen in Philadelphia, responsible for significant economic growth and positive social change. Among its most important contributions are its commitment and progress towards bridging the digital divide in our City.

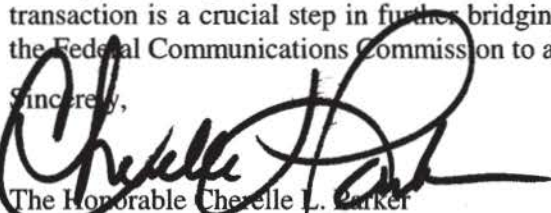
According to a 2013 poll conducted by The Pew Charitable Trusts, 18% of Philadelphia residents (nearly 1 in 5) still do not have Internet access through a home computer or a cell phone. Even more sobering is the fact that 27% of Philadelphia residents with annual incomes under \$30,000 lack Internet access. For the past four years, Comcast has demonstrated its longstanding dedication to addressing this digital divide through its Internet Essentials (IE) program. IE provides low-income families with affordable access to broadband, computers for as little \$149.99, and free digital literacy training. Families with children that qualify for the National School Lunch Program are eligible to apply for IE.

IE was first introduced in 2011 as a three-year experiment, but after its resounding success, Comcast recently announced that it would be extending the program indefinitely, again exhibiting its commitment to increase digital literacy. Nationwide, 1.4 million individuals have received broadband access through IE since 2011, including 9,000 families in Philadelphia. Comcast has and continues to partner with community organizations in Philadelphia and other cities to inform eligible families about IE. For example, students in the Philadelphia School District receive information about IE to take home to their parents and caregivers.

The Internet access provided through IE is vital to the families who participate in this program. As our world becomes increasingly digitalized, Internet access is no longer an option; it is a necessity, especially in the areas of education and employment. Regrettably, broadband access is costly, pushing the Internet beyond the reach of many low-income families. Fortunately, Comcast has recognized this problem and taken significant strides to rectify it through the IE program.

If its proposed merger with Time Warner Cable is approved, Comcast will be able to bring IE to Time Warner's markets, thereby providing affordable Internet access to many additional families across the country. I firmly believe that this transaction is a crucial step in further bridging the digital divide in Philadelphia and beyond. Therefore, I strongly urge the Federal Communications Commission to approve Comcast's proposed merger with Time Warner Cable.

Sincerely,


The Honorable Cherelle L. Parker
State Representative - 200th Legislative District/
Chair- Philadelphia Delegation - PA House of Representatives

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